

(4) providing recognition for skilled American volunteers and the organizations employing them;

(5) helping nonprofit organizations and corporations in the United States to identify resources and opportunities in international volunteer service utilizing skilled Americans;

(6) encouraging the establishment of international volunteer programs for employees of United States corporations; and

(7) encouraging international voluntary service by highly skilled Americans to promote health and prosperity throughout the world.

(b) **VFP PROGRAM OBJECTIVES.**—The objectives of the VFP Program shall be to—

(1) eliminate extreme poverty;

(2) reduce world hunger and malnutrition;

(3) increase access to safe potable water;

(4) enact universal education;

(5) reduce child mortality and childhood diseases;

(6) combat the spread of preventable diseases, including HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis;

(7) provide educational and work skill support for girls and empowering women to achieve independence;

(8) create sustainable business and entrepreneurial opportunities; and

(9) increase access to information technology.

(c) **VOLUNTEERS FOR PROSPERITY SERVICE INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**—The VFP Office may provide fixed amount stipends to offset the travel and living costs of volunteering abroad to any individual who—

(1) has skills relevant to addressing any objective described in subsection (b); and

(2) provides a dollar-for-dollar match for such stipend—

(A) through the organization with which the individual is serving; or

(B) by raising private funds.

(d) **FUNDING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall make available the amounts appropriated pursuant to section 204 to the VFP Office to pursue the objectives described in subsection (b) by carrying out the functions described in subsection (a).

(2) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Amounts made available under paragraph (1) may be used by the VFP Office to provide personnel and other resources to develop, manage, and expand the VFP Program, under the supervision of the United States Agency for International Development.

(e) **COORDINATION.**—The VFP Office shall coordinate its efforts with other public and private efforts that aim to send skilled professionals to serve in developing nations.

(f) **REPORT.**—The VFP Office shall submit an annual report to Congress on the activities of the VFP Office.

SEC. 204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

(b) **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.**—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a)—

(1) 90 percent shall be expended to expand VFP Serve; and

(2) 10 percent shall be expended to manage the VFP Program.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 657—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 13, 2008, AS “NATIONAL CELIAC DISEASE AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 657

Whereas celiac disease affects approximately 1 in every 130 people in the United States, for a total of 3,000,000 people;

Whereas the majority of people with celiac disease have yet to be diagnosed;

Whereas celiac disease is a chronic inflammatory disorder that is classified as both an autoimmune condition and a genetic condition;

Whereas celiac disease causes damage to the lining of the small intestine, which results in overall malnutrition;

Whereas, when a person with celiac disease consumes foods that contain certain protein fractions, that person suffers a cell-mediated immune response that damages the villi of the small intestine, interfering with the absorption of nutrients in food and the effectiveness of medications;

Whereas those problematic protein fractions are found in wheat, barley, rye, and oats, which are used to produce many foods, medications, and vitamins;

Whereas, because celiac disease is a genetic disease, there is an increased incidence of celiac disease in families with a known history of celiac disease;

Whereas celiac disease is underdiagnosed because the symptoms can be attributed to other conditions and are easily overlooked by doctors and patients;

Whereas, as recently as 2000, the average person with celiac disease waited 11 years for a correct diagnosis;

Whereas $\frac{1}{2}$ of all people with celiac disease do not show symptoms of the disease;

Whereas celiac disease is diagnosed by tests that measure the blood for abnormally high levels of the antibodies of immunoglobulin A, anti-tissue transglutaminase, and IgA anti-endomysium antibodies;

Whereas celiac disease can be treated only by implementing a diet free of wheat, barley, rye, and oats, often called a “gluten-free diet”;

Whereas a delay in the diagnosis of celiac disease can result in damage to the small intestine, which leads to an increased risk of malnutrition, anemia, lymphoma, adenocarcinoma, osteoporosis, miscarriage, congenital malformation, short stature, and disorders of the skin and other organs;

Whereas celiac disease is linked to many autoimmune disorders, including thyroid disease, systemic lupus erythematosus, type 1 diabetes, liver disease, collagen vascular disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and Sjogren's syndrome;

Whereas the connection between celiac disease and diet was first established by Dr. Samuel Gee, who wrote, “if the patient can be cured at all, it must be by means of diet”;

Whereas Dr. Samuel Gee was born on September 13, 1839; and

Whereas, by designating September 13, 2008, as National Celiac Disease Awareness Day, the Senate can raise awareness of celiac disease in the general public and the medical community; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 13, 2008, as “National Celiac Disease Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes that all people in the United States should become more informed and aware of celiac disease;

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe the date with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

(4) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Celiac Sprue Association, the American Celiac Society, the Celiac Disease Foundation, the Gluten Intolerance Group of North America, and the Oklahoma Celiac Support Group No. 5 of the Celiac Sprue Association.

SENATE RESOLUTION 658—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF FANNIE MAE SHOULD NOT RECEIVE LAVISH SEVERANCE PACKAGES AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 658

Whereas, on September 7, 2008 the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) were placed into conservatorship by the Federal Housing Finance Agency;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury has announced that up to \$200,000,000,000 of tax dollars will be invested in senior preferred stock of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, with billions more lent to the companies via the Government Sponsored Entity Credit Facility, and invested in mortgage backed securities issued by the companies;

Whereas the Federal Housing Finance Agency, as conservator, has all the rights, titles, powers, and privileges of the companies and of any stockholder, officer, or director of the companies, and has been charged with the duty to operate the companies;

Whereas media reports indicate that the former chief executive officers of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac may be paid severance packages worth a combined \$24,000,000 in pay, bonuses, and benefits;

Whereas these chief executive officers presided over Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in the time that led to a taxpayer-funded rescue and Federal takeover, and should not be rewarded; and

Whereas the conservator of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac has a duty both to the stability of the financial markets, and to the best interest of the American taxpayer, whose dollars are being invested in the companies; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the former chief executive officers who presided over the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) during the period that led to a Federal takeover should not be rewarded with lavish severance packages paid for by American taxpayers; and

(2) the severance packages of both former chief executive officers should be carefully examined and eliminated or reduced to an appropriate level.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5498. Mr. NELSON, of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3001, to authorize

appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5499. Mr. WEBB submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3001, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5500. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3001, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5501. Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. STEVENS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3001, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5502. Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska (for himself and Mr. LEVIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3001, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5503. Mrs. CLINTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3001, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5498. Mr. NELSON of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3001, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS FROM OIL AND GAS LEASING IN CERTAIN AREAS.

(a) **AREAS.**—This section applies to—

(1) any area in the Gulf of Mexico that is east of the Military Mission Line (as defined in section 102 of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note; Public Law 109-432));

(2) the area that is also known as the “Joint Gulf Range Complex” or the “Gulf of Mexico Range”; and

(3) any military or national security agency operations, training, or testing area that is used by a military or national security agency of the United States

(b) **PREREQUISITE.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior shall not issue any permit for oil and gas leasing or extraction in an area described in subsection (a) unless and until the President certifies (based on written opinions provided by each of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Air Force, and the head of each appropriate national security agency of the United States) that in balancing the national security interests of the United States—

(1) the advantages of oil or gas extraction in the area; outweigh

(2) the military and national security missions being conducted in the area.

(c) **OPINIONS.**—Each written opinion required for an area under subsection (b) shall—

(1) be submitted to the national security committees of Congress in unclassified form, with a classified annex (if applicable); and

(2) evaluate the effects of oil or gas extraction on military and national security agen-

cy operations, training, or testing in the area.

SA 5499. Mr. WEBB submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3001, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1222. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE IN IRAQ AFTER EXPIRATION OF ITS CURRENT UNITED NATIONS MANDATE.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States Special Representative to the United Nations should use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations to seek an extension of the mandate of the Multi-National Force in Iraq under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1790 (2007) in order to provide United States and Coalition forces within the Multi-National Force in Iraq with the authorities, privileges, and immunities necessary for such forces to carry out their mission in Iraq after December 31, 2008;

(2) the extension under paragraph (1) should expire upon the earlier of—

(A) a period of one year; or

(B) the entry into force of a strategic framework agreement and a status of forces agreement between the United States and Iraq as mutually agreed upon by the Government of the United States and the Government of Iraq;

(3) the strategic framework agreement now being negotiated between the United States and Iraq poses significant long-term national security implications for the United States;

(4) the Bush Administration having fully agreed to consult with Congress regarding all details of the strategic framework agreement and status of forces agreement between the United States and Iraq, copies of the full texts of each such agreement should be provided to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the appropriate committees of Congress before entry into such agreement; and

(5) any strategic framework agreement mutually agreed upon by the Government of the United States and the Government of Iraq should cease to have effect unless approved by Congress within 180 days of the entry into force of such agreement.

(b) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committees on Armed Services and International Relations of the House of Representatives.

SA 5500. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3001, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 81, before line 6, insert the following:

SEC. 344. ALTERNATIVE AVIATION FUEL INITIATIVE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Dependence on foreign sources of oil is detrimental to the national security of the United States due to possible disruptions in supply.

(2) The Department of Defense is the largest single consumer of fuel in the United States.

(3) The United States Air Force is the largest consumer of fuel in the Department of Defense.

(4) The skyrocketing price of fuel is having a significant budgetary impact on the Department of Defense.

(5) The United States Air Force uses about 2,600,000,000 gallons of jet fuel a year, or 10 percent of the entire domestic market in aviation fuel.

(6) The Air Force has developed an energy program (in this section referred to as the “Air Force Energy Program”) to certify the entire Air Force aircraft fleet for operations on a 50/50 synthetic fuel blend by not later than June 30, 2011, and to acquire 50 percent of its domestic aviation fuel requirement from a synthetic fuel blend, at prices equal to or less than market prices for petroleum-based alternatives, that exhibits a more favorable environmental footprint across all major contaminants of concern, by not later than December 31, 2016.

(7) The Air Force Energy Program will provide options to reduce the use of foreign oil, by focusing on expanding alternative energy options that provide favorable environmental attributes as compared to currently available options.

(b) **CONTINUATION OF INITIATIVES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Air Force shall continue the alternative aviation fuel initiatives of the Air Force with a goal of—

(A) certifying the entire Air Force aircraft fleet for operations on alternative or synthetic fuels (including blends of alternative or synthetic fuels with conventional fuels) by not later than June 30, 2011;

(B) acquiring 50 percent of its domestic aviation fuel requirement from alternative or synthetic fuels (including blends of alternative or synthetic fuels with conventional fuels) by not later than December 31, 2016, provided that—

(i) the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production and combustion of such fuel shall be lower than such emissions from conventional fuels that are used in the same application, as determined in accordance with guidance by the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(ii) prices for such fuels are equal to or less than market prices for petroleum-based alternatives that are used for the same functions;

(C) taking actions in collaboration with the commercial aviation industry and equipment manufacturers to spur the development of a domestic alternative aviation fuel industry; and

(D) taking actions in collaboration with other Federal agencies, the commercial sector, and academia to solicit for and test the next generation of environmentally-friendly alternative aviation fuels.

(2) **ADJUSTMENT OF GOAL.**—The Secretary of the Air Force may adjust the goal of acquiring 50 percent of Air Force domestic fuel requirements from alternative or synthetic fuels by not later than December 31, 2016, if the Secretary determines in writing that it would not be practicable, or in the best interests of the Air Force, to do so and informs the congressional defense committees within 30 days of the basis for such determination.